

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SIG-02 MMO-04 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:VDC
APPROVED BY EA/P:MSMITH
-----190554 099609 /13

R 181823Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO CINCPAC
COGARD
GOVGUAM
TREASURY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 18 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

CARTER ADMIN ASKED NVN RECEIVE HI-LEVEL US DELEGATION,
POSSIBLY INCLUDING SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN/FORMER SEN MANS-
FIELD--BUT NO RESPONSE RECEIVED, ACCORDING INFORMED
SOURCES. PROPOSED MISSION WOULD BE TO SEEK MIA INFO/OPEN
TALKS ON MENDING RELS (UPI, WP). VN DEP FONMIN PHAN HIEN
SAYS CONFIDENT US-VN RELS WILL IMPROVE UNDER CARTER ADMIN.
TELLS PRESS DURING SRI LANKA VISIT THAT VN READY RESUME
TALKS TOWARD NORMALIZING RELS W/US (REUTER COLOMBO 2/17).

VN SAYS WILL BROADCAST COUNTRY'S 1ST COLOR TV PROGRAM FOR
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TET (WP).

VATICAN SPOKESMAN SAYS COADJUTOR BISHOP HCM CITY ARRESTED
BY VN (WSTAR 2/17).

2. INDOCHINA/THAILAND

CAMBODIA ADMITS KILLING ABOUT 30 THAI VILLAGERS LAST MO, BUT DISMISSES INCIDENT AS "ARRANGING" ITS "INTERNAL AFFAIRS." IN REPLY TO RTG PROTEST, PP SAYS VILLAGES CONCERNED LIE INSIDE CAMBODIA. RTG CALLS CLAIM "BLATANT LIE" (UPI BANGKOK 2/16).

3. PHILIPPINES

KAMM (NYT) FINDS FEAR IN S PHILS AS MOSLEMS SEE C-F AS VICTORY, CHRISTIANS VIEW IT AS SURRENDER. NOTES EDUCATED MOSLEMS BELIEVE MARCOS OUTMANEUVERING THEM. SAYS PHIL MIL OFFICERS IN ZAMBOANGA OPTIMISTIC, THO SOME HAVE MISGIVINGS SINCE MOSLEMS NOT TURNING IN ARMS/TRYING EXTEND CONTROL AREA.

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4. INDONESIA

GOI SAYS HAS SETTLED LEGAL DISPUTES ON TANKER CHARTER W/2 SHIPPING LINES; INCL EARLIER AGREEMENTS MADE W/2 OTHER FIRMS, 12 TANKERS NOW COVERED. DISPUTES STILL UNRESOLVED CONCERN 21 OTHER TANKERS CONTROLLED BY 3 SHIPPING GROUPS (NYT; PURA, WSJ).

PURA (WSJ) REPORTS GOI'S NEW INCENTIVES TO STIMULATE OIL EXPLORATION GENERATE LITTLE ENTHUSIASM AMONG FON PETROLEUM FIRMS.

5. ASEAN UNCLASSIFIED

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MEMBERS INITIAL PREFERENTIAL TRADING AGREEMENTS FOR INDUSTRIAL ITEMS (AFP, WP).

6. JAPAN

IN UNPRECEDENTED DECISION, JAPANESE DISTRICT COURT THURS UPHELD JAPAN'S RIGHT DEFEND ITSELF MILITARILY, DESPITE OCCUPATION-ERA CONSTITUTIONAL BAN ON "WAR POTENTIAL." JUDGE RULED PACIFIST CLAUSE DOESN'T FORBID ARMING FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES, THO SAID COURT LACKED JURISDICTION DECIDE WHETHER SDF HAS GROWN BEYOND MERE DEF CAPACITY ENOUGH TO CONSTITUTE "WAR POTENTIAL" (SUNS'S SEIDEN, TOKYO).

JAPAN'S OVERALL BOP SLUMPED TO 850-MIL-DOL DEFICIT IN JAN, COMPARED W/DEC'S 464-MIL-DOL SURPLUS. FINANCE MINISTRY ISTRY SAID DOWNTURN EXPECTED, DUE SEASONAL FACTORS (REUTER, NYT).

MAINICHI SHIMBUN FACING BANKRUPTCY AS DEBTS ACCUMULATE TO 250-MIL-DOLS. SHAREHOLDER MTG IN OSAKA FRIDAY WILL DECIDE PAPER'S FATE. DIRECTORS WILL PROPOSE ONE-SIXTH LAYOFF/FORMATION NEW CO (WSJ'S LACHICA, TOKYO).

TWO US SERVICEMEN ARRESTED 2/17 ON MURDER CHARGES IN DEATH FELLOW SOLDIER NEAR US AIR BASE. TRIAL TO BE HELD BY US AUTHORITIES ACCORDING SOFA (AFP, WP).

OVER HALF MILLION JAPANESE SCHOOL CHILDREN CAME DOWN W/FLU LAST WK IN EPIDEMIC THAT HIT NEARLY 1.4 MILLION PUPILS SINCE FALL (AP, WP).

FOLLOWING UP ITS OECD PROPOSAL, JAPAN WILL RAISE SHIP EXPORT PRICES, POSSIBLY BY MONTH'S END, TO HELP SETTLE SHIPBUILDING COMPETITION DISPUTES W/EC (WP).

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7. KOREA

ATTY GEN BELL DISPUTES WP REPORT THAT HE TOLD PRES HE EXPECTS INDICTMENTS SEVERAL PRESENT/FORMER CONGRESSMEN IN CONNECTION W/KOREAN BRIBERY SCANDAL. BELL SAID ACCOUNT WAS "EXTREME DISTORTION," CONTAINING "TOTALLY INACCURATE, MISLEADING, AND DAMAGING" ASSERTIONS (AP, NYT; REUTER 2/17; NYDN).

NYDN REPORTS JUSTICE DEPT SOURCES DENY SEN BAKER'S CONTENTIONS THAT 40-50 CONGRESSMEN INVOLVED IN BRIBERY SCANDAL; SAY IN LAST 2 MOS "VACUUM CLEANER" HAS NARROWED SUBJECTS TO "HANDFUL," BUT "NO INDICTMENTS ARE ON THE HORIZON." WSJ SAYS INVESTIGATORS UNABLE CORRAL SKOREAN OFFICIALS WHO COULD PROVIDE NEEDED INFO. QUOTES JUSTICE DEPT OFFICIAL THAT PROBE HAS "TOO MANY GAPS." NYDN REPORT ADDS KEY PROBLEM FACING PROSECUTORS IS WHETHER CASE CAN BE MADE W/O INFO OBTAINED BY US INTELL IN SK, SUCH AS TRANSCRIPT OF CONVERSATION BETW PRES PARK/TONGSUN PARK, IN WHICH PLAN SPEND MILLIONS TO BRIBE US CONGRESSMEN ALLEGEDLY DISCUSSED.

FLA REP YOUNG ASKS GAO INVESTIGATE WHETHER US' FON AID TO SK USED FOR UNAUTHORIZED PAYMENTS TO US OFFICIALS. SAYS "RECENT REVELATIONS" ABOUT BRIBES NOT SPECIFIC ENOUGH TO RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT BRIBE MONEY'S ORIGINAL SOURCES MIGHT HAVE BEEN US TAX DOLS. GAO GAVE NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT (AP, 2/17).

BALTO FINANCIAL CONSULTANT RICHARD STAPLES CALLED AS WITNESS BY FED PROSECUTORS INVESTIGATING KOREAN BRIBERY SCANDAL. STAPLES IS LONGTIME ADVISOR/ASSOCIATE OF TONGSUN

PARK. ACCORDING HIS LAWYER, STAPLES IS "CO-OPERATING FULLY," HAS BEEN ASKED BY INVESTIGATORS NOT DISCUSS HIS TESTIMONY (BEHR, SUN).

CHARLTON (NYT) DOES ARTICLE ON SUSIE PARK THOMSON--FORMER UNCLASSIFIED

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CAPITOL HILL SECRETARY DESCRIBED BY FORMER HIGH-LEVEL

KOREAN OFFICIALS AS KCIA AGENT UNDER TONGSUN PARK. PUBLI-CITY FROM HER JUSTICE DEPT TESTIMONY IN BRIBERY SCANDAL HAS MADE IT DIFFICULT FIND ANOTHER JOB--NO ONE ON HILL WILL HIRE HER.

LOUISE YIM, 77-YR-OLD KOREAN LEGISLATOR/EDUCATOR/WOMEN'S MOVEMENT LEADER, DIED IN SEOUL 2/17 (AP, NYT).

8. AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

US/CANADA/AUSTRALIA/NZ BEGIN 15-DAY NAVAL EXERCISE IN PAC NEAR HAWAII; 40 SHIPS/250 PLANES/28,000 MEN INVOLVED (REUTER WASHINGTON).

GONZ BORROWS EQUIVALENT 35 MILLION NZ DOLS FROM DUTCH BANKS (JOC).

9. CHINA

NCNA CHARGED THURS THAT "GANG OF FOUR" INTERFERED WITH PRC'S STEEL PRODUCTON (AFP PEKING, WP).

IN MONROVIA, PRES TOLBERT TOLD FIRST VISITING PRC DEL THAT HE WILL WORK TO CEMENT SINO-LIBERIAN RELATIONSHIP (AFP, WP, 2/17).

JANET PORTER FINDS LONDON BULLION DEALERS HAVE MIXED VIEW RE LARGE DECEMBER PRC GOLD SHIPMENT TO LONDON; E.G. FINANCE FOREIGN TRADE HURT BY EARTHQUAKE, ASSIST WITH COUNTRY'S INDUSTRIALATION PLANS, USE GOLD A COLLATERAL AGAINST LOANS FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES (JOC).

IN HK, WP'S MATHEWS SAYS PIGS PROVIDE CLUE TO STATE OF PRC'S ECONOMY. AMOUNT OF PORK ON TABLES, SOWS IN YARDS, UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE SERVED AS RELIABLE POL/ECON BAROMETER. NOTES PRC

BROADCAST STATEMENT THAT "PIG-RAISING IS A BIG ISSUE THAT CONCERNS MANURE, MEAT, EXPORTS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE."

ACCORDING TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL'S MUNRO, CHOU BEING ELEVATED ALMOST TO LEVEL OF MAO ON CHINESE TOTEM POLE. CITES, AS EXAMPLE, GREATER PUBLIC ATTENTION DEVOTED TO PHOTOS-OF CHOU AT PEKING PHOTO EXHIBITION HONORING TWO DECEASED LEADERS.

MAY TAKE 3 YRS, COST ROC'S FISHING INDUSTRY 27 MILL DOLS FOR OCEAN TO RECOVER FROM JAN OIL SPILL OFF NORTHERN TAIWAN (UPI, CHI S-T 2/15).

10. JAPAN/KOREA - COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

SAAR (WP TOKYO) WRITES ON DOS' FORMER KOREA DIRECTOR RANARD'S ALLEGATIONS THAT JAPANESE POLITICIANS ACCEPTED CIA BRIBES. QUOTES INDEPENDENT DIET MEMBER UTSUNOMIYA THAT SCOPE/SUMS INVOLVED IN SEOUL-TOKYO CORRUPTION "MUCH BIGGER, BEYOND COMPARISON," W/AMTS KOREAN LOBBYISTS SAID TO HAVE DISTRIBUTED AMONG WESTERN LAWMAKERS. DIETMAN ALSO CLAIMS JAPANESE TRADING COS DOING BUSINESS IN SK FORCED PAY KCIA 10-20 PCT COMMISSION ON EACH DEAL, SOME OF WHICH PASSED THRU PRES PARK'S OFFICE FOR RECYCLING TO JAPANESE POLITICIANS AS KICKBACKS. CRITICS SKEPTICAL THAT GOJ INVESTIGATION ORDERED BY FUKUDA WILL MAKE MUCH PROGRESS; YOMIURI SHIMBUN YS PM'S ASSURANCES UNRELIABLE, REGARDS USG'S REFUSAL COMMENT ON RANARD'S STATEMENTS AS CONFIRMATION THEIR TRUTH.

SAAR 8BSERVES THAT, CURIOUSLY, THERE HAS BN LITTLE DISCUSSION OVER WHETHER THESE LATEST ALLEGATIONS CONTAIN ANY TRUTH. POINTS OUT THAT, SUPERFICIALLY, THEY ARE SOMEWHAT AKIN TO LOCKHEED SCANDAL--BUT DIFFERENCES APPEAR MORE COMPELLING, AND NEITHER JAPANESE NOR SK GOVT LIKELY COMPEL UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCLOSURE.

LAT'S JAMESON (TOKYO 2/17) REPORTS ON JAPANESE/SKOREAN LEGISLATORS' RESOLUTION, PASSED IN TOKYO WED, THAT SAID US TROOP PULLOUT WOULD BE "INVITATION TO INSTABILITY" IN KOREAN PENINSULA/NE ASIA. DIET ALSO SUPPORTED PARK'S CALL FOR NONAGGRESSION PACT W/NK AS PRECONDITION TO US TROOP WITHDRAWAL, REOPENING NK-SK DIPL TALKS, SIMULTANEOUS UN MEMBERSHIP FOR NK/SK.

JAMESON OBSERVES RESOLUTION BROUGHT INTO OPEN FOR FIRST TIME WIDESPREAD JAPANESE/SK OPPOSITION TO CARTER ADMIN'S PROPOSED PHASED US PULLOUT FROM SK, AND ALSO SHOWED LARGE

SEGMENT POLICYMAKERS IN BOTH NATIONS HAVE REMAINED UNSWAYED BY US ASSURANCES THAT WITHDRAWAL WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON SK'S SECURITY.

11. KOREA- COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

WSTAR (2/17) QUOTES PRES PARK THAT INTENDS ABANDON SEOUL AS CAPITAL, BUILD NEW ONE 60 MI DOWN ROAD TO REDUCE SEOUL GROWTH/GET FURTHER AWAY FROM DMZ. SUGGESTS PARK'S ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE STUDIED BY CARTER ADMIN. BELIEVES MIGHT BE GOOD IDEA MOVE US CAPITAL.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: STAFF:VDC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770059-0846
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770226/aaaaaxaj.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 458f7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Jul-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3278681
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEBRUARY 18 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: EA POSTS MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/458f7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009